Listing of the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-7. (Canceled).

8. (Currently Amended) A device for connecting subnets in a vehicle, comprising:

a gateway unit configured to connect at least two subsystems, wherein the gateway unit is made of at least one modular software gateway, which routes messages between only ~~precisely~~ two subnets.

9. (Currently Amended) The device as recited in claim 8, wherein at least three subnets are connected to the gateway unit, the gateway unit including a plurality of modular software gateways, each of the modular software gateways routing messages between only ~~precisely~~ two subsystems.

10. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 8, further comprising:

bus-specific receiving objects configured to relay incoming messages to selected software gateways, the bus-specific receiving objects being provided for each subnet.

11. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 10, wherein the receiving objects include routing tables in which a treatment of incoming messages is configured.

12. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 8, further comprising:

bus-specific transmitting objects configured to monitor access to a particular bus, for each subnet.

13. (Previously Presented) The device as recited in claim 8, wherein the modular software gateway is configured to buffer incoming messages and perform protocol-specific adaptations.

14. (Currently Amended) A device for connecting subnets in a vehicle comprising:

a gateway unit configured to connect at least two subsystems, the gateway unit being integrated in a control unit having an application system and being provided in one layer of a

communication system of the vehicle, the gateway unit including at least one modular

logical gateway, the logical gateway connecting <u>only</u> ~~exactly~~ two subsystems.